

public. Airport security is our first line of defense against terrorist attacks or other dangerous acts. We all know that our airport security personnel are underpaid and overworked.

Congress sets minimum security standards for the airports and airlines to meet, but implementing the standards is not a government function—that part is left to the airlines, airports and security personnel. We need to ensure, then, that the industry and security screeners are better prepared and that higher training standards are implemented. Security workers are characterized by a high rate of turnover. According to GAO's testimony in our April 6 hearing this year on aviation security, from May 1998 through April 1999, turnover averaged 126 percent among screeners at 19 large airports, and the average wage for screeners in the United States averages \$5.75 per hour with minimal benefits. We can't expect security personnel who are receiving minimum-wage or near-minimum wage to realize just how important their jobs are to the overall security of the airport and to have a commitment to their jobs. On the other hand, security personnel also need to be held individually responsible for security lapses. Peoples' lives are at stake when there are security lapses. Employees who fail to follow procedures should be suspended or terminated.

S. 2440 directs the FAA Administrator to prescribe minimum standards for training security screeners that includes at least 40 hours of classroom instruction and at least 40 hours of practical training before an individual is qualified to provide security screening services at an airport. The FAA is committed to funding better, more effective equipment, but it was not going to finalize the regulation to improve training requirements for screeners and certification for screening companies until May 2001. With this legislation, improved training requirements will be implemented by September 30 of this year. S. 2440 also, among other things, requires airport operators and air carriers to develop comprehensive and recurring training programs that teach employees their role in airport security and how performance will be evaluated and treated.

Another major problem at airports is secured-area access control weaknesses. People are getting into secured areas by following airport employees through security doors. This can be solved by employees simply closing the door behind them after they enter a secured area. S. 2440 requires airport operators and air carriers to develop programs that foster and reward compliance with access control requirements, discourage and penalize noncompliance, and enforce individual compliance requirements under FAA oversight.

I believe this bill is a step in the right direction. Security personnel need to be aware of the importance of

their job and they also need to be provided with the proper training to carry out their functions. Many of the areas covered by this bill consist of actions now being undertaken by the FAA. However, despite these actions, and consistent with the needs of the traveling public, a number of modifications will be debated with our House colleagues but I am confident we can put together a final bill and send it to the President for his signature.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee substitute be agreed to, the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed at this point in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2440), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

#### REQUESTING THAT THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE ISSUE A COMMEMORATIVE STAMP HONORING NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Governmental Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 70, and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will state the resolution by title.

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 70) requesting that the United States Postal Service issue a commemorative postage stamp honoring the national veterans service organizations of the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the concurrent resolution be printed at this point in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 70) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 70

Whereas United States service personnel have fought, bled, and died in every war, conflict, police action, and military intervention in which the United States has engaged during this century and throughout the Nation's history;

Whereas throughout history, veterans service organizations have ably represented the interests of veterans in Congress and State legislatures across the Nation, and established networks of trained service officers

who, at no charge, have helped millions of veterans and their families secure the education, disability compensation, and health care benefits they are rightfully entitled to receive as a result of the military service performed by those veterans; and

Whereas veterans service organizations have been deeply involved in countless local community service projects and have been constant reminders of the American ideals of duty, honor, and national service: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Congress requests that—*

(1) the United States Postal Service issue a series of commemorative postage stamps honoring the legacy and the continuing contributions of veterans service organizations to the United States; and

(2) the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee recommend to the Postmaster General that such a series of commemorative postage stamps be issued.

#### U.S.S. "WISCONSIN" COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMP

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Governmental Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 60, and that the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 60) expressing the sense of Congress that a commemorative postage stamp should be issued in honor of the U.S.S. *Wisconsin* and all those who served aboard her.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 60) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 60

Whereas the Iowa Class Battleship, the U.S.S. *Wisconsin* (BB-64), is an honored warship in United States naval history, with 6 battle stars and 5 citations and medals during her 55 years of service;

Whereas the U.S.S. *Wisconsin* was launched on December 7, 1943, by the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard; sponsored by Mrs. Walter S. Goodland, wife of then-Governor Goodland of Wisconsin; and commissioned at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on April 16, 1944, with Captain Earl E. Stone in command;

Whereas her first action for Admiral William "Bull" Halsey's Third Fleet was a strike by her task force against the Japanese facilities in Manila, thereby supporting the amphibious assault on the Island of Mindoro, which was a vital maneuver in the defeat of the Japanese forces in the Philippines;